

SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025
5:00 P.M.

The Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the Vice President, Cruz Gomez, Jr.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilmember Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
Councilmember Cruz Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Scott E. English
Councilmember Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were:

Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Maryanne Wolf, RMC, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety

The Vice President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk stated Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on April 4, 2025 in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board in the lobby of the City Hall;
2. Providing written notice to the offices of The Daily Journal, The Press of Atlantic City, and The Vineland Voice; and,
3. Filing written notice in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Vineland.

The Clerk read the following: *Public comment provides an opportunity for members of the public to inform the governing body about their views. The governing body prescribes to City Council's by-laws and the NJ Statutes on Open Public Meetings when engaging during public comment. As such, each individual shall have a 5 minute limit to comment; cannot yield time to another individual; may only approach the podium once during public comment for any one topic; vulgar/offensive language is prohibited; and City Council will not engage in dialogue with the public during this time. The governing body maintains model courtesy and respect and requires members of the public to do the same.*

The President asked if anyone in the public would like to speak. The following citizens spoke concerning Ordinance Nos. 2025-27 and 2025-28 collectively:

Joel Martinez from 1149 W. Sherman Avenue read a statement and provide Council with copies of photographs of what he contends drug addicts and the homeless have done to his property and surroundings because of the methadone clinic near his home. He feels scared, disrespected, and unsafe and wants a fence put around his property because of the drug and homeless problem has and believes these ordinances will only further the problem because it will push those seeking help to his area. Business Administrator Bob Dickenson took down his information and stated someone will be in touch with him.

Inez Acosta, Chief Legal Counsel for Complete Care and who lives in Vineland opposes Ordinance No. 2025-28. She mentioned Complete Care received State funding to facilitate a harm reduction program. She argued The State licenses and regulates hrc and this ordinance would limit from hrc from operating freely and argued what presented in the ordinance is a very small portion of the city. Circumvents the intent and legal authority. She stated this would be a big inconvenience for those needing care.

Kirsten Ellson lives in the area of Delsea Drive and Weymouth Roads. She was upset the zones were changing however it was then explained to her by Solicitor Tonetta that her property zone always allowed a harm reduction center. She apologized as she read the notice letter incorrectly.

Betsy Powell lives in Egg Harbor but works in Vineland and stated she was in opposition to these ordinance changes and that allowing them to pass will inhibit access to special needed programs and asked City Council to reconsider.

Rachel Campbell lives in Galloway NJ. and works at the Harm Reduction Center in Vineland. She believes changing the zoning will be very detrimental to the people here in Vineland and asked Council to reconsider.

Georgette Shelton lives in Cape May Courthouse but works at the Harm Reduction Center in Vineland and is opposing the two ordinances, especially the ordinance that changes the zoning moving forward because working in the non profit field for thirty-three years, these programs are placed specifically into the areas that are needed. The passage of these ordinances will cause a hardship to Council's constituents. She thanked everyone for allowing her to continuously speak over the past few months. She also mentioned for anyone having issues with syringes to please call the Harm Reduction Center and they will send someone or provide safety care options to properly dispose of the needles.

There being no one further to be heard, the Clerk presented ORDINANCE NO. 2025-27, ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 96-4, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 425, ARTICLE XV, SECTIONS 425-10 ENTITLED WORD USAGE; DEFINITIONS, TO CLARIFY CERTAIN TERMS INCLUDING "OFFICE" AND "SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING OR TREATMENT CENTER" AND TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL TYPES OF OFFICES AND HARM REDUCTION CENTERS AS DEFINED TERMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 6667 OF THE CITY OF VINELAND PLANNING BOARD, which was ready for a public hearing.

The President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Dr. Arthur, that Ordinance No. 2025-27 be taken up for a Public Hearing and open to the public for discussion.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS

Councilmember Dr. Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

The President asked if anyone in the public would like to be heard on Ordinance No. 2025-27.

There being no one to else to be heard, the President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Dr. Arthur, that the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2025-27 be closed.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS

Councilmember Dr. Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

The President entertained a motion by Council member Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Dr. Arthur, that Ordinance no. 2025-27 be taken up for a Final Reading and adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Councilmembers on this motion.

There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS

Councilmember Dr. Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 2025-27 by title and announced the vote tally.

This President directed the Clerk to submit Ordinance No. 2025-27 to the Mayor for approval or disapproval.

the Clerk presented ORDINANCE NO. 2025-28, ORDINANCE NO. 2025-28 ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 96-4, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 425, ARTICLE XV, SECTIONS 425-293 ENTITLED B-1 BUSINESS ZONE STANDARDS, SECTION 425-294 ENTITLED B-2 BUSINESS ZONE STANDARDS, SECTION 425-295 ENTITLED B-3 BUSINESS ZONE STANDARDS, 425-298 ENTITLED IN-1 INSTITUTIONAL ZONE STANDARDS, which was ready for a public hearing.

The President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Dr. Arthur, that Ordinance No. 2025-28 be taken up for a Public Hearing and open to the public for discussion.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS

Councilmember Dr. Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

The President asked if anyone in the public would like to be heard on Ordinance No. 2025-27.

There being no one to else to be heard, the President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Dr. Arthur, that the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2025-27 be closed.

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Councilmember English
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Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

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Councilmember Dr. Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025
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The Clerk read Ordinance No. 2025-27 by title and announced the vote tally.

This President directed the Clerk to submit Ordinance No. 2025-27 to the Mayor for approval or disapproval.

The President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Dr. Arthur, to adjourn the meeting.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS

Councilmember Dr. Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 P.M.

Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk

There being no one to be heard, the Vice President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Arthur, to adjourn the meeting.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilmember Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Vargas
Vice President Gomez

Cruz Gomez, Jr.
Vice President

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk